

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 4, 2005 and Advisory Action dated August 1, 2005 have been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 2, 3, 14 and 15 recite allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Accordingly, claims 1 and 13 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 14 respectively. Therefore, because the remaining claims depend from claims 1 and 13, all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. No new matter is added. Claims 1, 3-13 and 15-24 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 4-13 and 16-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,757,723 to O'Toole (O'Toole). Applicants submit that the cited reference fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in any of the pending claims.

Specifically, the Office Action admitted that claims 2, 3, 14 and 15 recite allowable subject matter. As stated above, claims 1 and 13 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 14 respectively. Therefore, claims 1 and 13 are in condition for allowance.

Further, because claims 4-12 and 16-24 depend from claims 1 and 13 respectively, these claims are allowable at least for the same reasons as claims 1 and 13.


Based at least on the above, Applicants submit that the cited reference fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in any of the pending claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) of claims 1, 4-13 and 16-24 is respectfully requested.

The Final Action objected to claims 2, 3, 14 and 15 as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Applicants submit that the subject matter of cancelled claims 2 and 14 were incorporated into claims 1 and 13 respectively, and claims 3 and 15 depend from claims 1 and 13. Therefore, claims 3 and 15 are allowable at least for the same reasons as claims 1 and 13. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 3 and 15 is respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination (RCE)
Check No. 13572